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WOODALL (JOHN) THE CVRE OF THE PLAGUE by an Antidote called Aurum Vitæ (*A, B, in fours*), *British Museum duplicate stamp on verso of title, wants* A1 (*? blank or with signature and ornament only*), *cloth*

4*to*. *London, Printed by E. P. for Nicholas Bourne.* 1640

*** EXCEEDINGLY RARE. The S.T.C. distinguishes two issues and cites one copy only (B.M.) of each ; this is S.T.C. 25961 (B4 *verso* begins " dreadfull disease "). No sale at auction of either issue seems to be recorded.

STC 25961

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THE CVRE OF THE PLAGUE

BY

AN ANTIDOTE

CALLED

AURUM VITÆ.

Being well approved to be ane asie safe, and perfect cure thereof; as also of contagious Agues, or Feavers begining either Hot or Cold.

The description, order, and use whereof; together with the said *Antidote*, are to be sold at the Shop of NICHOLAS BOURNE, Stationer, at the South Entrance of the ROYAL EXCHANGE.

Invented and produced by John Woodall, *Master in* SURGERY.

Published by Authority.

LONDON:
Printed by E. P. for *Nicholas Bourne.* 1640

BRITISH MUSEUM
SALE DUPLICATE
1787

To the Reader.

The Author ſendeth greeting in the Lord.

SHewing, that he having of late publiſhed ſome workes in Surgery, amd amongſt the reſt, a Treatiſe concerning the cure of the Plague, *which workes, although they are allowed and well approved of by many right worthy perſonages, for the matter in them contained; yet nevertheleſſe the Author findeth, he hath by improvidence failed of his deſires in one of the main points he aimed at, in the production of thoſe workes, which was in the putting forth of the Treatiſe of the* Plague *in one and the ſame Volumne, with the reſt of his Workes, for whereas his intent was, that treatiſe above the reſt ſhould have beene common, and open to every perſon, and alſo to have bin at an eaſie rate for the poorer ſort, in which caſe his beſt courſe had beene to have printed it by it ſelfe, ſo had it borne its owne burthen of price, but by reaſon that the other treatiſes are bound up together with it, the book will coſt ten ſhillings, which the poorer ſort cannot buy, and they commonly*

have the greateſt need thereof, eſpecially in that dreadfull Diſeaſe of the Plague; *wherefore, partly through ſolicitation of ſome Friends, and partly, for that the preſent time of Infection requireth helpe, he hath thought fit to draw out of the ſaid Treatiſe, that one principall* Medicine *called* Aurum Vitæ, *and to publiſh it by it ſelfe, with an expreſſion of the Vertues and uſes thereof, for the preſent occaſion, and ſervice of any perſon which ſhall thinke good to make uſe thereof, or that ſhall for the future be diſpoſed to be provided before hand, againſt a time of need, of ſuch a Medicine, as will not decay in ſeven yeeres and more.*

VALE.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE CORDIAL ANTIDOTE CALLED *AURUM VITÆ.*

THis Antidote, at one onely time given, taketh away the Peſtilentiall Feaver, and therby cureth the *Plague*, that the patient frequently becommeth well the very next day; eſpecially if the Medicine be taken upon the firſt day of the complaint; he or ſhe obſerving of certain eaſie Rules hereafter preſcribed, concerning the order of adminiſtring thereof, and it is ſo eaſie and ſafe a Medicine, that an Infant, although it ſucke upon the Mothers breaſts, may ſafely take it; yea, and may eaſily be induced to receive it into the Body: for that it is ſmall in quantity, and is without offence in taſte or ſmell to any: Alſo, it may ſafely be given to any Woman that

is great with childe, whereof diverſe trials have bin had with ſafety and comfort.

The Doſe of *Aurum Vitæ.*

The Doſe or quantity ſufficient thereof for a Man or Woman to take at any one time, is but eight graines, and by that proportion, any diſcreet perſon may gather what may be given to any younger perſon: *viz.* A child of two full yeeres old, may ſafely take two graines, and a child of foure or five yeeres old, may take three graines, or foure, and one about foureteene yeeres may take ſix graines, and one of eighteene, nineteene, or twenty yeeres old, or more, may ſafely take the full of eight graines.

And note that this medicine performeth its operation only by ſweat which is the trueſt and ſafeſt way of the entrance upon that cure of the Plague (for the moſt part) and alſo it doth it without moving the body either upwards or downeward; and namely it cauſeth no vomits nor ſtooles: neither is it at all nauſeous or offenſive to the ſtomach, neither any wayes cauſing extraordinary thirſt, nor faintneſſe to the patient, but on the contrary, the patient, when his ſweating is over, ſhall manifeſtly feele cheerefulneſſe, as being much refreſhed thereby, with alſo an abatement of his paines, and his Feaver will be gone at the onely once taking ther of, neither ſhall the patient need to over-burthen himſelfe with too many cloathes to force him or her to ſweat: for the medicine of it ſelfe ſufficiently performeth that duty, onely hee may bee ordered to have ſomewhat more to cover him, than the ordinary coverings

rings he usually lyeth under, and the roome ought likewise to be kept warme with a fire therein, for that cold aire in time of sweating, is obnoxious and dangerous.

And further, this Medicine may bee kept seven whole yeares and longer, if occasion and need be, it will not decay in that time, for it being truly prepared of gold, is thereby permanent above other Medicines, and looseth not its vertue as vegetable medicines doe: But as Gold, that excellent mineral, excelleth all other mettals, in price and vertue; even so the true prepared medicines thereof, as far exceed al other mineral medicines in their vertues, in the preserving and defending of men from Diseases, as also in curing their infirmities, when by Gods permission they seize upon the bodyes of mankind. Of the continuance of its Vertue.

And whereas other strong medicines commonly worke two wayes at once, namely by sweat, and also by Vomit, whereby they fiercely distract the Patient, and produce fearefull accidents, as if death it selfe were at hand, by two violent expulsions at one time; yea oftentimes by a third, viz. By purging downeward: Also this most safe, and sweating medicine, performeth as much as it promiseth, pleasantly, and without rigour or nautious offence, as well in the Plague, as also in other contagious diseases, and namely in the final Pox, where Nature also striveth to thrust out her venemous enemy, *per poros cutis*; or by the sweat holes of the skin, and that course of curing, is of all other the safest, in a contagious Disease at the first entrance, which then consisteth rather of poysonous va-

vapours then of putrifaction of humours, in which regard the aforesaid course is safe, for it is a feare-full thing, yea, and a desperate one (as I conceive) to purge in thebeginning of a contagious disease.

To cure Agues or Feavers that are contagious.

This Medicine is also approved good to be given in the beginning of any contagious Ague or feaver, hot or cold, and for the most part, it cureth the patient at once giving, and it faileth seldome.

Of the rule and order to be held in the taking of this Antidote for the cure of the Plague.

FIrst the patient is to be demanded if he had any stoole that day, or the day before, and if yea, all is well for that point; if otherwise, and that you find you have time to tarry so long (else not) let the patient have onely a suppository that may move him once, and when he hath had one stoole thereby, proceed without any further delay to the administring of the Antidote; for delayes are dangerous in that fierce disease, and whether the patient at that instant be found sweating, burning, quaking, raving, or in any other distemper give it in, and the party that taketh it, sought to be in his warme bed fitted with sufficient coverings before he takes this Medicine in, then let him take it, either mixed with some cordiall thing, if he please, as a little Mithridate, or give it mixed with the pap of an Apple, which will doe as well, and so it is easiest taken in by infants (as I suppose) for it needs no addition at all to adde vertue to it, onely the addition chiefly serves to carry or convay the medicine without

without wasting into the stomach, for that it is a powder small in quantity, and subject to waste.

Also the party that is to take it, must have before hand an ordinary posset of Ale and milke to the quantity of a quart very warm, which when he hath taken his medicine, shortly after let him drink a reasonable full draught of the said posset well warmed, and then lying on the one side, which side the patient please, let him be warme covered, head, face and all, leaving full breathing scope, and so in Gods name let him lye still and sweat gently, if he can beare it for three or foure houres were best, & ever as he thirsteth, let him freely take warme posset drink, which were best to be given him in some cruet or spout-pot, if such were at hand, that he take no ayre by raising himselfe up in drinking. And when he hath performed his due sweating, let him be wiped dry and shifted, and then give the patient some warme broath: And further by divers experiences the Author hath found, that a patient so healed (shifting his cloaths) infecteth not an other, although he goe abroad the next day, for by that strong sweating the venome of the disease is wholy evaporated and gon, so as the next day he may by Gods mercy safely goe abroad, but for the day of his sweating let him keepe within, and give him food competent in a sparing quantity, such as is of a light digestion, and deny him not drinke, so that it be somwhat warme at the fire only for that day.

Necessaries to bee provided before the taking.

Thus much for those which take the medicine within 24 houres of the first complaint. Item unto such as the disease hath taken greater hold of, namely that before the receite of the aforesaid

Antidote, the pitient have outward tumours, ſwellings or Soares, as Botches, Carbuncles, or blaines, not yet broken nor ripe, if hee take the medicine as aforeſaid, and ſweat well upon it, the venome of the ſoares as is ſaid, ſhall, through Gods Mercy, be ſo evapourated by his ſweating, that the ſwellings ſhall decline of themſelves, and not at all come forward, and if any after do break, as being formerly ſupperated, or ripe before the medicine tooke place, they alſo ſhall, as ordinary boyles, eaſily and quickly heale with every meane medicine.

And notwithſtanding generally, once ſweating healeth the Patient, yet nevertheleſſe if occaſion bee, hee may ſafely take a ſecond Doſſe, or proportion, yea, and a third without danger; as diverſe have done, ſo that he may be the more confident of perfect health; nevertheleſſe if he find his deſire by the firſt, let him not take a ſecond, and if by a ſecond, let him not take a third, for ſweating medicines, too often taken, are obnoxious to a dijected weeke patient.

The Vertue of the precedent Antidote, in the cure of the ſmall Pox.

THe Diſeaſe of the ſmall Pox, hath great affinity with that moſt fearefull Diſeaſe of the *Plague*, being alſo contagious and deadly often times, and the cure thereof I have experienced to be by the ſame way, as the cure of the *Plague*, only the cure of the ſmal Pox ſucceeds beſt, if it be begun before that they doe manifeſt themſelvs, and namely, in the firſt day of the Feaver, or ſoon after, for that diſeaſe hath ever a forerunning hot feaver,

or

or Ague, for a meſſenger; wherfore it were not amiſſe for any that hath young children, eſpecially in times that are contagious and infectious, to be prepared with remedies at hand, to fit ſuch an unwelcome gueſt, conſidering the medicine will keep its Vertue for more then ſeven yeeres.

Moreover, for the manner of the ſweating in the ſmall Pox, let it bee very wearily and gently, and with no more cloathes then will keepe the patients ſweating, and defend them from taking cold, and deny not them warm poſſet-drinke in the time of their ſweating.

Alſo, when any perſon is deſirous to take the benefit of the aforeſaid medicine, having an Ague, or Feaver, with *paraxiſmes* or fits, let him not take the medicine in the time of the fit, but one full houre as is ſaid, before the fit, or rather more, but if the Feaver be continuall, as often in that fierce diſeaſe of the Plague it is, give it at any time in manner aforeſaid; for if he take it, and his burning change into ſweating, which the medicine uſually produceth, the feare of Death in the Patient is halfe over.

And further of a truth, the Author can affirme that he hath cured ſome by the heretofore mentioned Antidote, that had the Peſtities, or ſpots of the Plague, vulgarly called Gods tokens, upon them, and they are yet living witneſſes thereof; for which, and all other his exceeding favours in that feareſull diſeaſe, the Almighty God alone be glorified: And ſo the Author briefly concludeth with a Copy of a certificate concerning the Vertue of the before mentioned Antidote, *Aurum Vitæ*, referring

ring the Reader for further atteſtation to the Authors Booke called the *Surgions Mate*, or *Militarie* and *domeſtike Surgerie*.

The Copy of a Certificate, concerning the Vertue of the precedent Antidote, called *Aurum Vitæ*, from the Juſtices, Miniſters, and other the Officers of the Pariſh of S. *Margaret VVeſtminſter*, as it was by them preſented to the Right Honourable, *Henry*, Earle of *Mancheſter*, Lord Privy Seal, &c. which by his Lor: ſhip was preſented to the reſt of his Majeſties moſt Honourable Privy Counſell.

WEE the Inhabitants of Saint *Margarets* in Weſtminſter whoſe names are here under written, doe moſt humbly certifie your Lordſhips, and that upon our owne knowledge, that in this time of viſitation of the Plague, Feavers, Agues, and other diſeaſes, which have beene very grievous and great afflictions unto us: It pleaſed Almighty God by the hands of one *Iohn VVoodall* Chirurgion of the Eaſt India Company, and of his Majeſties Hoſpitall of Saint *Bartholomewes* in London, a learned, judiciall, and expert man, which ſaid *Iohn VVoodall* about five weekes before Michaelmas laſt, delivered unto ſome of us, who were Officers in this ſaid Pariſh, an Antidote compoſed in Pills, which hee had made us, with directions how they ſhould be adminiſtred to ſuch as had the Plague, Feavers, Agues, or any ſuch violent diſeaſes, that then remained among us; which ſaid Pills have beene employed very carefully, according

to

to his said directions, and administred to three-score severall persons, some of this new Feaver, some of the small Pox, some Agues, and some other diseases, but most, to them that were visited with the Plague, which had risings, Soares, Carbuncles, Blaines, and were certainely knowne to have that fearefull disease, all which persons recovered, and not one of all them that have taken the said Pils, dyed, thanks be given to Almighty God: neither can we doe lesse than publish the great skill, judgement, and charity of the said *Iohn VVoodall*, by whose industry and care this Antidote hath wrought so good effect, and did bestow them freely, without one penny recompence for the same.

Westminster the 6 of October. 1638.

Pet. Heywood, Iustice.
Rob. White, sub-Curate.

{*Thomas Mar.* / *Richard Protter.*} Church-Wardens.

William Hawkins.
Tho. Kirke.
Copia vera
Edward Martin.

And for Satisfaction of such Persons, as being in health, desire preservatives, the Author observing, that although his *Antidote*, be granted to be a cure for the diseased of the *Plague* yet nevertheles therby it giveth not those that are well, satisfaction concerning their desires, which are rather for the present, to be furnished with some good preservative Medicine, such as by art, through Gods permission, may preserve them in health from that dread-

dreadfull diſeaſe, that it ſeaze not upon them unawares; Wherefore to ſatisfie ſuch, he hath prepared two preſervative helpes, the one being a powder to be inwardly taken, faſting each morning, the quantity of eight graines, either in Beere, Ale, or wine; Or to children, if it be mixed with butter, and ſpred upon their bread, or given them in milke, or any way elſe that they will be induced to take it in, it ſufficeth; And that they faſt two houres after it, they may relie upon it, as on a good preſervative, well approved of: And further, if any man, woman, or child, ſhould accidentally or willingly take treble the quantity preſcribed, they may ſafely doe it without any danger at all: Yet by way of a preſervative as is ſaid to prevent the comming of the diſeaſe, the Author holdeth the aforeſaid quantity of eight graines is ſufficient.

The ſecond preſervative intended for correction of the Ayre, is to be carried in a box, about the perſon of any, to make uſe of it at their wils, that they may often ſmell thereto, and thence draw in a preſervative Ayre to defend them from the danger of noyſome vapours, which commonly the *Plague* entreth by; as ſent from the Almighty, who alone defendeth from, ſendeth to, and of his merciſull providence cureth the *Plague*; Vnto whom be aſcribed all honour, and glory *Amen*.

Theſe 2 laſt recited Medicines, are to be ſold with the Antidote, ready prepared for uſe, By Nicholas Bourne, *as aforeſaid.*